THE CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE

PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE USE.

Published for the
Council of the Church Unity Octave.

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THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL AND RE-UNION

The Catholic revival, which began in the Anglican Church a little over a century ago, has three ends in view. These are to restore to us the fullness of Catholic Faith, Catholic Life, and Catholic Unity. It was a revival of dormant but not dead principles, for however much these things had been forgotten by the majority, they were always believed in by the faithful few and attested by the official formularies of the Church.

This revival began, as was natural, by emphasising the Faith. Then out of this Faith grew a devotional Life that centred in the adoration of the Blessed Trinity, especially through the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and was nourished by the Sacraments wherein the life of the Incarnate Son of God is extended to man.

A Catholic Faith, however, that does not find its consummation in Catholic Unity is not true to itself. Those who are one in Faith must live a common Life in the Unity of Christ's Mystical Body, the Church. A Catholicism that seeks to maintain itself in isolation is a contradiction in terms and sooner or later loses something of its true nature. In stressing Catholic Faith and Life, we must not lose sight of our goal, Catholic Unity.

The Church Unity Octave was instituted to stress the need and importance of Catholic Unity, not a unity of any sort, but a unity that grows out of Catholic Faith and Life and rests on these as on a most sure foundation. And this cannot but be one of unity in dogmatic belief and in communion with the divinely appointed supreme pastor on earth, the successor of St. Peter.

THE OCTAVE

JANUARY 18th—25th

From the *Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome,* to the Feast of the *Conversion of St. Paul,* the Apostle of the Nations.

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

"That they may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me. . . . That they may be one even as we are one; I in them and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that thou didst send me and lovedst them, even as thou lovedst me."—St. John xvii, 21.

It is only by the reunion of all Christians into the one Visible Kingdom of Christ, symbolised by the Chair of St. Peter, the central See of Christendom in Rome, that God's will may be done and the power of the Church can be directed, without the present waste and rivalry, to the conversion of the whole world by the One Faith to Christ our King.

PRAYER: to be recited daily.

Antiphon. That they may all be One, as Thou, Father, art in Me and I in Thee: that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

V. I say unto thee that thou art Peter.

R. And upon this Rock I will build my Church.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles: Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give unto you; regard not our sins but the faith of Thy Church, and vouchsafe to grant her peace and unity according to Thy will; Who livest and reignest God for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

Daily Intentions.

Jan. 18 *St. Peter's Chair at Rome.* The return of all the "other sheep" to the "One flock, under one Shepherd."

„ 19 Reunion of the Eastern and Western Churches.

„ 20 The repairing of the 16th century breach between England and Rome.

„ 21 The return of Lutheran and other European Protestants to Holy Church.

„ 22 The return of all dissenters to Holy Church.

Jan. 23 The return to the Holy Sacraments of lapsed Catholics.

„ 24 The Conversion of the Jews and Moslems.

„ 25 *Conversion of St. Paul.* The Missionary conquest of the whole world for Christ the King.

Recommendations.

1. To receive Holy Communion as often as possible during the Octave.
2. To attend Mass daily for the intentions of the Octave.
3. To say a Decade of the Holy Rosary each day for the above Intentions.
4. To offer a penance, a fast, the Stations of the Cross, or some devotion as an act of Reparation for the sins of heresy and schism.

We urge all to offer regular intercession for the intentions of the Octave THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Priests are asked to offer the Mass for the "Ending of Schism," or a Mass for that intention at a regular interval.

Lay people are urged to make a rule of assisting at Mass on a fixed day, weekly or monthly, for reunion with the Apostolic See.

To take part in the Holy Hour of prayer for reunion where this is organised. (Particulars from the Rev. B. E. Joblin, Laleham Abbey, Staines, Middx.)

To *study* the question of Reunion, particularly as it affects these two Provinces.

We place the Octave and our Work for the Cause under the patronage of Our Lady of Walsingham.

THE VOTIVE MASS FOR THE ENDING OF SCHISM.

Introit. Salvos nos fac.

Deliver us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen: that we may give thanks unto thy holy Name, and make our boast of thy praise. *Ps. ib.* O give thanks unto the Lord for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.

V/ Glory. Deliver us.

Collect.

O God, who settest straight what has gone astray, dost gather together them that are scattered and preserve them that thou hast gathered: we beseech thee of thy mercy pour out upon the Christian people the grace of thy union; that, all division being done away, they may unite themselves to the true shepherd of thy Church and be enabled to do thee worthy service. Through.

Epistle. Ephes. iv, 1.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being

alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus.

Gradual. Ps. cxxii. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. V/ Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces. Alleluia. Alleluia.

V/ *Ps. cxlvii.* Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem: praise thy God, O Sion.

After Septuagesima. Tract Ps. lxxvi. In Jewry is God known, his Name is great in Israel. V/ At Salem is his tabernacle and his dwelling in Sion.

V/ There brake he the arrows of the bow: the shield, the sword and the battle.

In Paschaltide in place of the gradual.

Alleluia, Alleluia. V/ *Ps. cxlvii.* Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem: praise thy God, O Sion. Alleluia. V/ He maketh peace in thy borders: and filleth thee with the flour of wheat. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel. St. John xvii, 11.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou has given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee, and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one.

Offertory. Rom. xv. God grant you to be like-minded one towards another that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God.

Secret. We beseech thee, O Lord, to sanctify these gifts which we present unto thee for the union of the Christian people; and through them grant unto us in thy Church the gifts of unity and peace. Through.

Communion. 1 *Cor.* 10. We being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread and one cup.

Postcommunion. Grant, O Lord, that this holy communion which we have received in token of the union in thee of thy faithful people: may work effectually to the unity of thy Church. Through.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

A prayer of Cardinal Newman.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who when thou wast about to suffer didst pray for thy disciples that to the end of time they might all be one, as thou art in the Father and the Father in Thee; look down in pity on the manifold divisions among those who profess the faith, and heal the wounds which the pride of man and the craft of Satan have inflicted on thy people. Break down the walls of separation which divide one party of Christians from another, so that as there is but one company in heaven above so likewise there may be one communion, confessing and glorifying thy Name here below. Who livest.

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice and what-

soever else may hinder us from godly Union and Concord: that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one Hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; though Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might bring together in one fold all the elect people of God; mercifully grant the guidance of thy Holy Spirit to all who pray and labour for the visible unity of those who have been baptised in the Name of the Trinity in Unity: and at the intercession of the blessed Mother of God, of blessed Joseph, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, of blessed George and all thy saints, bring near the time when with one spirit and one mouth thy Church may serve thee in peace and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who.

O Almighty God, who dost shed abroad thy light in the darkness of this world, and hast sent thy Holy Spirit to protect and guide thy Church: we give thee hearty thanks for the Faith which thou hast vouchsafed to reveal to our fathers of old; humbly beseeching thee that we may with steadfast will both be faithful guardians of the truth committed to our charge and also by thy grace prepare our hearts to receive the continual guidance of the Holy Ghost: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Almighty God, who has built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the head corner-stone; Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Mary, Lady of Walsingham, pray for the peace of the Household of God.